DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY F Schneider DATE 7/2/85
RDS [ ] or XDS [ ] EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
E.O. SEC. BY STATS MARKINGS [ ] RELEASABLE
DECLASSIFIED [ ] RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED [ ]
FOIA EXEMPTION

R

353

5.

ISRAELI AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY

ISRAEL HAS A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, INCLUDING INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT, SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEMS AND VARIOUS AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY AND MISSILE POINT DEFENSE SYSTEMS. THE SYSTEM IS MANNED BY HIGHLY TRAINED, CAPABLE PERSONNEL.

-- ISRAEL HAS THE MOST COMBAT-EFFECTIVE AIR FORCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE CAPABILITIES OF THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE IN AIR-TO-AIR COMBAT ARE UNMATCHED BY THE AIR FORCES OF ANY OTHER MIDDLE EAST NATION. THE COMBAT SKILLS OF INDIVIDUAL IAF PILOTS ARE PROBABLY EQUAL TO THOSE OF THE MOST ADVANCED WESTERN NATIONS. THE ABILITY TO COMBINE ALL ASPECTS OF AERIAL WARFARE TO FIELD A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AIR FORCE, WITH SUPERIOR AIR-TO-AIR COMBAT SKILLS, REQUIRES A LEVEL OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE THAT IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS CURRENTLY ONLY IN ISRAEL.

-- THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE IS CAPABLE OF DEFENDING ISRAELI AIRSPACE AGAINST ARAB AIR ATTACKS, GAINING AIR SUPERIORITY OVER ARAB AIRSPACE IN THE EARLY STATES OF A CONFLICT, CONDUCTING EFFECTIVE INTERDICTION TO ISOLATE ENEMY GROUND FORCES AND SUPPRESSING AND DISRUPTING ENEMY GROUND-BASED AIR DEFENSES.

-- ISRAEL'S GROUND-BASED AIR DEFENSE, CONSISTING OF HAWK AND CHAPARRAL/VULCAN SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES AND AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY (ADA), IS ASSIGNED TO THE AIR FORCE. IT IS MANNED BY WELL TRAINED ACTIVE-DUTY AND RESERVE PERSONNEL.